

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 096622

47

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02

SAJ-01 AID-05 ACDA-05 /068 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/LA/PLC:ANWILLIAMS:ET

APPROVED BY ARA-EP:JKING

----- 057621

R 252239Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096622

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PE

SUBJECT: PERUVIAN DESIRE TO BUY HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS

REF: LIMA 3360

1. THE BUREAU IS CONTINUING ITS REVIEW OF REGIONAL MILITARY AIRCRAFT TRANSFER POLICY, THE FINAL RESULTS OF WHICH ARE EXPECTED BY MID-SUMMER. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT WISH TO PREJUDGE THE RESULTS OF THIS REVIEW WITH RESPECT TO AH-1J COBRA HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS, OUR PRELIMINARY THINKING IN THIS REGARD IS THAT THE CURRENT SALES BAN POLICY ON ATTACK HELICOPTERS IN THE HEMISPHERE WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD BE CONTINUED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. BECAUSE OF THE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CONTAINED IN THE AH-1J, THE SALE OF THE COBRA ATTACK HELICOPTER FOR CREDIT IS PROHIBITED UNDER SECTION 4 OF THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT (CONTE-LONG AMENDMENT) UNLESS THE PRESIDENT DETERMINES THAT SUCH FINANCING IS IMPORTANT TO THE U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY AND REPORTS SUCH DETERMINATION TO THE CONGRESS. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE CONGRESS THAT U.S. SECURITY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 096622

INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED BY PERMITTING THE SALE OF

ATTACK HELICOPTERS TO LATIN AMERICA.

B. THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO EQUIVALENT ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT IN THE HEMISPHERE. THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SOPHISTICATED AND COSTLY COBRA GUNSHIP IN THE REGION WOULD CLEARLY REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT ESCALATION IN THE OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY OF THE ACQUIRING COUNTRY AND WOULD IN ALL LIKELIHOOD STIMULATE THE DESIRE FOR OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA TO MAKE SIMILAR PURCHASES.

C. CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO THE SALE OF ATTACK HELICOPTERS IN LATIN AMERICA, PARTICULARLY FROM CERTAIN OF THE NEWER CONGRESSMEN, IS LIKELY TO BE STRONGLY NEGATIVE, AND WILL POSSIBLY HAVE AN ADVERSE SPILLOVER EFFECT ON OUR OVERALL SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND MILITARY SALES IN THE HEMISPHERE.

D. WITH RESPECT TO SALE OF THE AH-1J TO PERU SPECIFICALLY, OUR CREDIBILITY WITH CONGRESS WOULD SERIOUSLY BE BROUGHT INTO QUESTION FOLLOWING OUR INTENSE EFFORTS LAST YEAR TO PERSUADE CONGRESS TO SUPPORT AN ARMS PACKAGE FOR CHILE IN LIGHT OF THE POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT BETWEEN CHILE AND PERU ENGENDERED BY THE OVERWHELMING ARMS SUPERIORITY ENJOYED BY THE LATTER.

2. FOR THE ABOVE REASONS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT OUR REGIONAL AIRCRAFT TRANSFER POLICY REVIEW WILL CONCLUDE THAT WE SHOULD REVERSE OUR POLICY WITH RESPECT TO THE SALE OF THE HUEY COBRA. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, AIRCRAFT SALES, HELICOPTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE096622
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ANWILLIAMS:ET
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750147-0656
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750415/aaaaanxv.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LIMA 3360
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERUVIAN DESIRE TO BUY HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS
TAGS: MASS, PE, US
To: LIMA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006